

VZCZCXYZ0007
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHSO #0123 0721553
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 121553Z MAR 08
FM AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7997
INFO RHEHNSC/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHDC IMMEDIATE
RUEHBR/AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY 9140
RUEHRI/AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO PRIORITY 8636
RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC 3048

UNCLAS SAO PAULO 000123

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

STATE INR/R/MR; IIP/R/MR; WHA/PD

DEPT PASS USTR

USDOC 4322/MAC/OLAC/JAFEE
E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [KMDR](#) [OPRC](#) [OIIP](#) [ETRD](#) [BR](#)
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: IRANIAN ELECTIONS; SAO PAULO

"Reformers' Little Chances in Iran"

Liberal, largest national circulation daily Folha de S. Paulo (3/12) editorialized: "Millions of Iranians will vote this Friday to elect their new Parliament.... Despite that, Iran is still far from being a democracy. Between 2,000 and 6,000 of the Iranians who applied to run for a seat in the Parliament were rejected by the Council of Guardians, a 12-member collegiate headed by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the regime's supreme leader.... Unfortunately, no change should be expected from the elections: the performance of the reformers will be poor. In addition to being harassed by the council, the group of reformers, which is led by former President Muhammad Khatami, is in lethargy. The political dispute in Iran is no longer a dispute between reformers and conservatives. It is now a dispute between moderate conservatives, such as Ali Larijani (former nuclear negotiator with the West), and radicals, under President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's leadership. The good news is that internal economic problems suggest difficulties for Ahmadinejad's allies."
White